

TRANSCRIPT PREPARED BY THE CLERK OF THE LEGISLATURE  
Transcriber's Office  
FLOOR DEBATE

January 11, 2006    LB 454

love our neighborhood. We chose to live there. It is as safe as any neighborhood we have ever lived in. We have wonderful neighbors and we really enjoy it there. But because we are in close relationship with them, we know the fear. Our area is not patrolled in the same way that other parts of Omaha are, and you need to understand that's a fact. It's not because the police are a bunch of bad guys and women. You know, I'm not going to try to judge it. It's a part of the society that persons brought up in any of our communities are going to be more fearful when they see a young, black man with a gun, or afraid that his bulge in his pocket is a gun. It's just what we have to live with, that the challenge of enforcement is before us. We do not have it in the same way. Some have asked why I am so...why would my community, why would my neighborhood feel so strongly that this bill is the wrong direction. Well, it's because of the unequal enforcement. I spoke earlier of the...of my friend who went to prison in a clear act of self-defense. I did not say just one little additional point there. My friend is black and the persons attacking him were white. That is the difference. If this passes, I will be pleading through this kind of a method and any other method I can with the...with my neighbors and especially with the young people in my neighborhood--don't do it; do not assume that if you use a concealed weapon that you will be judged according to some equal law. I am sure every person on this floor decries the fact that justice is not equal, I would hope that,...

SENATOR CUDABACK: One minute.

SENATOR KRUSE: ...but I can assure you where I live, where I live, if a black young man shoots an older white guy, like me, he/she will go to prison, even if it is in utter self-defense. That's the system. We can complain about the system, and I assure you I complain about it not in the same way, and for good reason, as Senator Chambers, but I feel it very strongly. That's the real world in which we live. And in the real world in which we live, I have to say to the young people of my community, do not follow this law if it passes; do not even consider carrying a weapon, because you are leading yourself into mischief, you are leading yourself into prison...